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PERSPECTIVES ON RACISM OF THE EARLY  
TWENTIETH CENTURY AMERICA IN  
DU BOIS' *THE SOULS OF BLACK FOLK*  
AND WRIGHT'S *NATIVE SON*

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**Abstract**

*Issues on racism and oppression had been a lifetime topic revealed by Afro-American writers. W.E.B. Du Bois and Richard Wright were among many outstanding writers of the twentieth century. Both DuBois' *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903) and Wright's *Native Son* (1930) are powerful novels depicting the Afro-American experience. *The Souls of Black Folk* was "groundbreaking" with DuBois' criticism on Booker T. Washington's philosophy, and *Native Son* is particularly interesting for its unusual hero-a young black criminal.*

*Both DuBois and Wright are in fact conveying universal insights. DuBois' prophetic statement on the color line problem of the twentieth century has been proved to be true in various parts of the world and even up to the twenty-first century. Wright's portrayal on racism is a universal one too, and not only for the black Americans. In fact, Wright also depicts the Communists and the Jews as two of other minority groups receiving unfair, injustice treatment from the majority white society.*

*Keywords: racism, color line, lynching, segregation,*

**1. Introduction**

The history of the African American is a story of a continuous struggle to attain freedom, equality, and social justice as